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Message Text

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 12111 031135Z

42
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR UR
SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL OBSERVATIONS MOSCOW-SIMFEROPOL

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

REF: MOSCOW 11264 OF 1972

1. ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE HUTH AND CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL OFFICER GROUNDWATER TRAVELED BY CAR MOSCOW-OREL-KHARKOV-ZAPOROZHE-SIMFEROPOL SEPTEMBER 23-28, 1973.

2. SUMMARY: HARVESTING OF SMALL GRAIN VIRTUALLY COMPLETED WITH AMPLE EVIDENCE OF SERIOUS MOISTURE PROBLEMS DURING HARVEST BETWEEN MOSCOW AJ DNEPROPETROVSK. HARVESTING OF ROW CROPS AND OTHER FALL WORK SERIOUSLY HAMPERED THIS AREA DUE TO EXCESSIVE SOIL MOISTURE. FROM DNEPROPETROVSK TO SIMFEROPOL SOIL MOISUTRE DECREASED FROM GOOD TO BARELY ADEQUATE. WINTER GRAIN UNIFORMLY IN GOOD CONDITION AND GENERALLY AHEAD OF LAST YEAR BOTH IN TERMS OF QUANTITY EMERGED AND STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT. THIS PARTICULARLY TRUE FROM KHARKOV-SIMFEROPOL SEGMENT (SEE REFTEL). END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 12111 031135Z

3. SOIL MOISTURE AND RELATED INFORMATION: FROM MOSCOW TO KURSK GROUND SATURATED, WITH MUCH STANDING WATER. LITTLE FIELD WORK OBSERVED -- GENERALLY TOO WET. A FIELD OF ROTTING, FLATTENED MIXED PEAS AND OATS OBSERED SOUTH OF OREL. ADJACENT

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

WHEAT FIELD, PARTIALLY HARVESTED BUT BADLY LODGED, HAD GRAIN SPROUTING IN HEADS. SEVERAL FIELDS HAD SMALL STACKS OF SOAKED STRAW. FROM KURSK TO ABOUT DNEPROPETROVSK LESS WET THAN MOSCOW TO KURSK, BUT SOIL STILL SATURATED AND GENERALLY TOO WET TO WORK. ABOUT FIFTY KILOMETERS SOUTH OF KHARKOV LARGE FIELD OF SUNFLOWERS CHECKED. HEADS WERE SMALL (FOUR INCHES), WELL-FILLED, BUT SOAKING WET, INCLUDING SEEDS. SEVERAL OTHER FIELDS SAME CONDITION OBSERVED THIS AREA. CORN FIELD THIS AREA ALSO CHECKED -- KERNELS WERE MILKY STAGE, AND PLANTS SOAKING WET. FROM DNEPROPETROVSK TO ZAPOROZHE SOIL MOISUTRE AMPLE BUT FIELDS DRY ENOUGH TO WORK AND SOME CORN HARVESTING UNDERWAY. FROM ZAPOROZHE TO SIMFEROPOL SOIL IS LIGHTER; SOIL MOISTURE WAS ADEQUATE BUT NO MORE. NECESSARY TO GO DOWN FIVE TO SIX INCHES TO OBTAIN SOIL DAMP ENOUGH TO FORM A "BALL." FIELD WORK PROGRESSING THIS AREA.

4. GRAIN FOR 1973: ALL SMALL GRAIN, WITH EXCEPTION OF HANDFUL OF BADLY LODGED FIELDS, ALREADY HARVESTED. A NUMBER OF FIELDS CONTAINED MUCH VOLUNTEER GRAIN, ESPECIALLY FIELDS WHICH APPARENTLY HAD BEEN PLOWED AND/OR WORKED SOME TIME AGO. FIELD OF BARLEY 10 TO 12 INCHES TALL CHECKED ONE-HALF WAY BETWEEN KHARKOV-ZAPOROZHE. PLANT DENSITY APPEARED ABOUT AS HEAVY AS IF SOWN BUT LACK OF ROWS, ETC. CLEAR INDICATION IT WAS VOLUNTEER. FORMER WINDROWS IN FIELD ACROSS ROAD WERE IN SAME CONDITION WITH IMMATURE HEADED BARLEY.

5. WINTER GRAIN: IN GENERAL, ALL WINTER GRAIN FIELDS HAD GOOD, EVEN GERMINATION AND APPEARED TO BE COMPLETELY FREE OF WEEDS AND VOLUNTEER GROWTH. ROUGH SEED BEDS WERE INFREUENT. FROM MOSCOW TO SOMEWHAT NORTH OF BELGOROD, MOST FIELDS WERE "MEDIUM" (FOUR TO FIVE INCHES BUT NOT STOOLED), A FEW WERE "EARLY" (STOOLED, SIX INCHES), AND ONLY A HANDFUL WERE "LATE" (BARELY SHOWING TO TWO TO THREE INCHES). SOUTH OF BELGOROD TO SIMFEROPOL MAJORITY OF FIELDS WERE LATE TO LATE VERGING ON MEDIUM WITH A NUMBER OF FIELDS WHERE GRAIN BARELY EMERGED. ONLY A FEW EARLY FIELDS, MOSTLY ON IRRIGATED AREAS, SOUTH OF ZAPOROZHE. SEEDING UNDERWAY BETWEEN ZAPOROZHE AND SIMFEROPOL WHERE RAIN
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NEEDED TO AID GERMINATION AND PLANT DEVELOPMENT.

6. OTHER CROPS: CORN: DUE APPARENTY TO GENERAL WETNESS, LITTLE HARVESTING ACTIVITY NORTH OF DNEPROPETROVSK AND A GOOD PROPORTION OF CORN STANDING IN FIELDS THIS ARE STILL TOO WET AND IMMATURE. SOUTH OF DNEPROPETROVSK SOME HARVESTING UNDERWAY, BOTH FOR SILAGE AND GRAIN. KERNELS AND EARS IN FIELDS CHECKED WERE GOOD. A NUMBER OF FIELDS OF CORN ONLY ONE TO TWO FEET TALL OBSERVED. IN GENERAL, A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF FIELDS REMAINED TO BE HARVESTED. SUNFLOWERS: SUNFLOWERS AFFLICTED SAME MOISTURE PROBLEM AS CORN. ONLY ONE INSTANCE OF HARVESTING NOTED. FIELDS NOT NERLY AS NUMEROUS AS CORN. FROM OREL TO DNEPROP-

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

ETROVSK, FEW IF ANY FIELDS HAD BEEN HARVESTED, PERHAPS ONE-
HALF FILEDS REMAINED UNHARVESTED REST OF TRIP. BETWEEN
ZAPOROZHE AND SIMFEROPOL A NUMBER OF LATE FIELDS (FOR SILAGE)
OBSERVED. SUGARBEETS: SOMEWHAT FEWER FIELDS OBSERVED THAN
FOR SUNFLOWERS, PARCTICALLY NONE SOUTH OF ZAPOROZHE. LITTLE
HARVESTING ACTIVITY ACTUALLY OBSERVED.
AGAIN, PERHAPS DUE TO MOISTURE SITUATION. NEVERTHELESS
BETWEEN OREL AND ZAPOROZHE MANY TRUCKS OBSERVED HAULING BEETS.
FROM FIELD CHECKS AND OBSERVATION OF TRUCKS BEETS JUDGED TO BE
FOUR TO FIVE INCHES ACROSS AND EIGHT TO TEN INCHES LONG.
NORTH OF KARKOV, BEET HARVESTER DRIVER IN FIELD STATED BEETS
WERE BIGGER AND BETTER THAN USUAL, BUT RAIN HAD BEEN A
PROBLEM "EVEN WITH BEETS." BETWEEN MOSCOW AND OREL POTATOES
BEING HARVESTED, SOMETIMES BY MACINE DIGGERS FOLLOWED
BY FARM WORKERS, BUT MORE OFTEN ENTIRELY BY HAND IN SPITE OF RAIN,
SLEET AND GENERAL WETNESS. SAME FOR CABBAGE. WHEN OBSERVED,
QUALITY LOOKED GOOD.

7. COUNT SHEET INFORMATION: PERCENTAGE FIGURESOF COUNT
SHEET FELDS FOR SEPTEMBER 22-27, 1973 FOLLOW (IN PARENTHESES
ROUGHLY COMPARABLE PERCENTAGE FIGURES FOR OCTOBER 17-21, 1972):
MOSCOW TO OREL - EMERGED WINTER GRAIN (WG), 7 (12); PLOWED OR
PLOWED AND WORKED (P OR P&W), 17 (51); STUBBLE (ST), 50 (30).
OREL TO KHARKOV - WG, 17 (WW); POR P&W, 23 (54); ST, 38 (5).
KHARKOV TO ZAPOROZHE - WG, 25 (12); P OR P&W, 31 (46);
ST, 11 (13). ZAPOROZHE TO SIMFEROPOL - WG, 12 (34); P OR
P&W, 55 (33); ST, 14 (9). ABOVE PERCENTAGES CORROBORATE GENERAL
SUBJECTIVE OBSERVATIONS. FALL FIELD WORK IS CURRENTLY
DELAYED BETWEEN MOSCOW AND KHARKOV BECAUSE OF EXCESS MOISTURE.
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PAGE 04 MOSCOW 12111 031135Z

NEVERTHELESS, CONSIDERNG THAT THIS YEAR'S OBSERVATIONS ARE ALMOST
A MONTH EARLIER THAN LAST YEAR'S, THE PERCENTAGES OF EMERGED
WINTER GRAIN ARE NOT TOO DIFFERENT. FROM KHARKOV TO ZAPOROZHE
SIGNIFICANTLY MORE WINTER GRAIN HAS EMERGED THIS YEAR AND
FIELD WORK WOULD ALSO APPEAR TO BE WELL AHEAD OF LAST YEAR'S
PACE. LAST FALL THIS AREA WAS DROUGH STRICKEN WHICH ACCOUNTS
FOR PART OF DIFFERENCE. BETWEEN ZAPOROZHE AND SIMFEROPOL
THE PERCENTAGE DIFFERENCES WOULD SEEM TO PRIMARILY REFLECT
THE MONTH'S DIFFERENCE IN OBSERVATION PERIODS.
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